

The principal nations of the world have 2,291 warships, mounting 8,883 guns, mostly of very heavy calibre.

A Brotherhood House has been rented in Chicago by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, to be opened as a home at a moderate price for young men.

So great is the echo in one of the rooms of the Pantheon that the striking together of the palms of the hands is said to make a noise equal to that of a 12-pound cannon.

Bishop Baldwin has appointed the Rev. J. A. Bloodsworth, late Presbyterian minister, to the charge at Thamesford and Lakeside, vacant by the removal of the Rev. W. Stout to Oil Springs.

In Cotta, a little town in Saxony, the names of persons who did not pay last year's taxes are posted in all the restaurants and saloons, and the proprietors dare not serve them with either food or drink.

A geographical expert estimates the fertile portion of the earth's surface at 20,260,200 square miles, and the barren region at 22,960,000 square miles.

In England last year less coffee, cocoa, strong wines and spirits were drunk, while the consumption of tea, light and sparkling wines and beer increased.

One theory of the origin of the canals of Mars is that they are the result of smaller bodies striking the planet at a tangent. This would account for the perfect straightness of the canals.

Mme. Fateno, wife of the Japanese minister, objects to the American dress because it does not permit her to sit on the floor comfortably, Japanese fashion.

The Rev. E. A. Vesey and Mrs. Vesey are spending a brief vacation in Muskoka, after which they will proceed to Detroit, where Bishop Davies has a parish waiting for Mr. Vesey.

The hugest solitary wave on record was that which accompanied the earthquake of 1868 off the coast of Arica, Peru. It was 50 feet high, and extended to New Zealand and Japan.

All Saints' Church, Cannington, is to have a Sunday-school building, the corner stone of which was laid on Friday last by Mr. N. W. Hoyles, Q.C., of Toronto.

An astronomer calculates that if the diameter of the sun is daily diminished by two feet, over 3,000 years must elapse ere the astronomical instruments now in use could detect diminution.

The Rev. John W. Jones, incumbent of the parishes of Maxwell and Dundalk, has received an offer from the Bishop of Huron of the rectorship of Thamesford. At the earnest request of his present congregation, he has declined the offer.

Edison on one occasion had in his aquarium several gold fish, each of which had been made to swallow a tiny electric lamp. When the current was turned on the fish presented a remarkable appearance. All the minute details of their anatomy were presented to view.

Of 103 candidates ordained, 58 to the diaconate and 45 to the priesthood, at the Lenten ordinations in England, only 38, or 36 per cent., were graduates of either Oxford or Cambridge.

A French writer says of the vultures of Africa that in flight they expend no force either to sustain or guide themselves. Their only effort is in balancing as they sail through space. The same is true of all soaring birds.

The winner of a prize for the best specimen of microscopic handwriting, offered in Paris recently, submitted a postal card containing on one side the contents of the first two pages of a big newspaper.

The reported discovery of a wonderful deserted city in a remote and almost inaccessible section of Sierra Madre mountains, Mexico, has been verified by Maurice Lentow and a party of explorers.

Rev. J. Gibson, M.A., rector of the Church of England at Norwood, sails for England, accompanied by his wife, next week. He will be absent for a few months.

## British and Foreign.

The Bishop of Sierra Leone will leave for England on furlough about the end of May.

A volume of "Sermons on the Clerical Life" by the late Canon Liddon is announced by Messrs. Longmans.

At the Church of the Advent, Boston, a cancelled mortgage (\$17,000), which had long been a burden on the parish, was laid on the altar. The generous donors have carefully kept their names a secret, even from the rector.

The Bishop of Mashonaland, who has been invaded home, left Capetown for England on board the Union Company's steamer "Tartar."

The Right Rev. Charles R. Hale, Bishop of Cairo, expects to sail for England on May 16. He will spend the summer abroad and will attend the great missionary meeting to be held in London.

At the Church of the Transfiguration, New York, the offerings on Easter Sunday were devoted to the increase of the Endowment Fund, which now amounts to more than £14,000. The object of the fund is to provide for the future maintenance of the church in its present locality.

On the second Sunday in Lent, at the Mission Church of the Advent, in Seoul, Corea, the Rev. Maurice Wilton Davies, deacon, late of St. Boniface College, Warminster, was ordained priest by Bishop Corfe, missionary Bishop in Corea and the province of Shing King, in Manchuria.

The consecration of the new Trinity Church, San Francisco, on Easter Monday, was a grand function. There were thirty clergymen in the chancel, including the two Bishops—Bishop Wingfield, of Northern California, being present with Bishop Nichols.

The Right Rev. W. E. Meade, D.D., of Cork, was enthroned as Bishop of Ross at St. Faughan's Cathedral, Rosscarbery. Dr. Meade is Bishop of the dioceses of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross. The Archbishop of Armagh's mandate commanding the enthronement having been read, the Bishop was conducted to the throne by the Dean of Ross.

The programme is, we understand, nearly complete for this year's Irish Church Congress, which will take place at Cork during the second week of September, under the presidency of the Bishop of Cork. The speakers will, it is anticipated, include the Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin; the Bishops of Derry, Killaloe, Edinburgh, and Salisbury; the Deans of St. Patrick's and Worcester, Archdeacons Gore and Wynne, Professor Rawson-Lumby, and the Earl of Meath. Hospitality will be provided with Irish generosity, and everything will be done to make the Congress as successful as it has been in former years.

The Bishop of Manchester, in a letter published lately on the subject of the "Living Wage," tells a correspondent who writes to him the following facts:—"I live," he says, "as plainly as any working man, and believe that I work harder and more hours than nine out of ten working men, and yet I am compelled, by the expenses incident to my office, to spend £1,000 a year more than my official income."

The Rev. Edward Lauderdale, late minister of the Baptist Tabernacle at Grimsby, and spoken of as the "Spurgeon" of Lincolnshire, has passed the examination held by the Bishop of Lincoln, and is to be ordained deacon on Trinity Sunday next. He has been reading and preparing for his ordination for the last three months with the Rev. W. J. S. Rawson, vicar of Metheringham.

The recent lectures at Stoke-on-Trent on Mr. Vernon Staley's book, "The Catholic Religion," have had one decided effect. They have very materially increased the sale of that useful little work which has drawn down upon it the wrath equally of the Romanist as of the Puritan. One firm of book-sellers in Stoke, we are informed, sold six dozen copies between the first lecture and the second—that is to say, they sold in the week nearly half as many as in the previous six months.

The Central Board of Education at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by a vote of twenty-nine to two, refuses to pay any teacher appearing in the public schools in the garb of any religious order. An application has been made for an injunction restraining the nuns from teaching in the public schools while wearing the dress of their order. Some Boards of Education have allowed nuns and sisters to act as teachers in the public schools and to wear their distinctive dress.

The heads of the Roman Catholic Church keep a careful look out for the dollar, and have an overwhelming influence in the Secret Councils of the City of New York. During ten years, from 1884 to 1894, Roman Catholic institutions received from the city \$5,526,783. All Protestant institutions (including the Protestant Episcopal Church) received during the same period the modest sum of \$365,467. The many churches received amongst their number about \$1,000 a day; the Roman Church received over \$15,000 a day for itself alone.

It is an interesting statistical fact that since the establishment of the Bible Society's agency for

Egypt—ten years ago—183,000 copies of Scripture have been put into the hands of the people in Egypt, and the immediately neighbouring lands. Of these, nearly 40,000 have gone to the seafaring folk passing through the Suez Canal and in the town of Port Said. About 66,000 copies were circulated in Egypt, 17,000 in Syria, 52,000 in Palestine, and 8,000 in Southern Arabia and the Red Sea coast.

The Bishop of Tasmania has issued a pastoral letter to the Church people in Hobart concerning the visit of the Rev. Canon Carter and the Rev. A. W. Robinson to that diocese, in which he says:—"We have worked to complete the material fabric of St. David's Cathedral, and I am one of those who believe that He Who received the widows' mite as presented to Himself, though it was given for the beautifying of the Temple, has accepted our efforts as an act well pleasing in His sight. But I am also persuaded that we cannot too soon make use of the completed Cathedral for a special effort to stir the spiritual life of our people. Therefore, I have taken upon myself to invite two clergymen from England to come and hold two missions in Hobart, the first at the Cathedral and the second at Holy Trinity Church. Canon Carter and the Rev. A. W. Robinson, who have accepted my invitation, are no novices, and are sure to win the hearts of our people by their earnestness, and tact, and quiet reasonableness." The two clergymen are expected to arrive about Whitsuntide, and to spend about seven weeks in Tasmania.

The Bishop of Tasmania, in one of the papers on "The Light of Melanesia," speaks of his visit to Florida which he declares has been our most signal triumph of late years. The native Church is thus described: Upon the shore close by are visible the native houses and the spacious and really splendid church, a specimen of like structures in many parts of Florida. They are noble pieces of bamboo work, capable of holding 300 or 400 people, with a high-pitched roof not less than thirty feet in height. They are famous for their singing in Florida. It is here that you can listen to all the parts taken by large bodies of men and women, though it is strange to hear the amen pronounced amen, and to listen to the late Rev. Mr. Plant called Pulaneti. (Natives here cannot conclude a word with a consonant, or pronounce two consonants together.) Let my reader imagine to himself such a building made of beautifully interlaced bamboo strips and crowned with a massive palm-leaf thatch, with doors cut high, compelling a step of two or three feet (in order that the pigs may not come to church), with no windows, because it is better to get light through the chinks of the wall than heat through windows—imagine this striking edifice planted in the midst of a mass of crotons ablaze with their leaves of crimson and gold and rich shades of every tint, and you have one of the most beautiful effects of tropical scenery, commingled with the associations of happy Christian life in the South Seas. Referring to the moral and spiritual life of the place the Bishop says: "In 1875 there was no really settled school in Florida. The captain of the ship told me also that in those days no natives were wilder, none more arrant thieves than in Florida, and every door and port-hole had to be closed ere these people were invited on board. And at the present time the Christians are numbered by thousands; in fact, the few heathen are simply waiting to be taught ere they give up their old beliefs." There are twenty-eight schools, 2,000 baptized, and 1,067 scholars on the island.

A very striking article recently appeared in the columns of a prominent dissenting review, published in the United States, dealing with the subject of the progress of Christianity among urban populations, compared with the growth of the populations themselves. The author groups American cities into three classes: (1) Those which have a population of more than 500,000, (2) those from 100,000 to 500,000, and (3) those numbering from 25,000 to 100,000. From census data he discovered that in each of the three classes Roman Catholics comprise about one-quarter of the populace, their proportion being strangely equal in all. In smaller cities and the rest of the country the Roman Catholic proportion is lessened. When he came to deal with the members of other religious bodies, he found that in cities of the first class they were about one-eighth of the population—i.e., half the number of the Romanists; in those of the second, one-fifth; and in the third and rest of the country, one-quarter, or a little more. A table was given showing the number of Methodists, Baptists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Church people, and Congregationalists, for every 1,000 of the population in cities of each of the three classes, and also in the country, from which it appeared that the Church was keeping pace with the growth of the urban populations. In cities of the first class there were twenty-eight Church people to every 1,000 inhabitants, a number which is exceeded only by that of the Presbyterians, who are twenty-nine. The

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